

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 091424Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6239

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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DEPT PLS PASSAMB KEATING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS ON US-ISRAEL RELATIONS AND
RESUMPTION OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EASING OF US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL, POSSIBLE
VISIT BY PM ALLON TO WASHINGTON AND STATE DEPARTMENT DENIALS
OF RASH OF ALLEGATIONS WERE KEY TOPICS OF ISRAELI PRESS
APRIL 9. MAIN EDITORIALS COMMENTED ON CONDITIONS FOR RE-
SUMING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER) SAW US PRESSURE ON
ISRAEL EASING, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT PRESIDENT FORD
WILL TAKE CONCILIATORY STAND TOWARDS ISRAEL IN HIS STATE OF
THE WORLD ADDRESS TO CONGRESS. THIS IS SEEN BY "DIPLOMATIC
SOURCE" AS EFFORT TO IMPROVE US-ISRAEL RELATIONS AS RESULT
OF CONCLUSION BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT
ISRAEL WILL NOT MODIFY ITS NEGOTIATING POSITIONS UNDER
PRESSURE, WHILE ARAB EXPECTATIONS ARE INFLATED BY US
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PRESSURE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRAEL.

3. THE JP ALSO REPORTED INFORMED SOURCE IN WASHINGTON CLAIMING THAT ISRAEL HAS CONVEYED SEVERAL "GENERAL IDEAS" TO WASHINGTON TO RESUME BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WASHINGTON, ISRAEL, AND EGYPT PREFER RATHER THAN RECONVENING FULL-SCALE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

4. SEVERAL PAPERS REPORTED PLANS FOR MEETING BETWEEN PM ALLON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER NEXT WEEK WHEN ALLON IS DUE TO BE IN US FOR SERIES OF FUND-RAISING APPEARANCES. DECISION ON ACCEPTANCE OF FUND-RAISING INVITATION WILL BE MADE IN NEXT FEW DAYS. POSSIBILITY OF FORD-RABIN MEETING ALSO MENTIONED. PAPERS ALSO CARRIED STATE DEPARTMENT DENIAL OF ANY DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE ALLON VISIT AS WELL AS DENIALS OF (A) ALLEGED REMARKS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER ON DESIRE FOR "STRONG MAN" TO ACCOMPANY ALLON, (B) DEPUTATION OF MAX FISHER AS PERSONAL EMISSARY OF PRESIDENT FORD, (C) REPORTS ON UPCOMING "PROXIMITY TALKS," AND (D) STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND VP ROCKEFELLER.

5. AMBASSADOR DINITZ'S DENIAL THAT HE PRESENTED NEW ISRAELI IDEAS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS LAST WEEKS WERE CARRIED BY HAARETZ (GOLAN).

6. YEDIOT (ZIMUKI AND KIWITY) REPORTED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN WASHINGTON SAYING THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT ADMINISTRATION CHARGE AGAINST ISRAEL. WASHINGTON POST REPORT DESCRIBING KISSINGER-DINITZ MEETING AS "DESIGNED TO REDUCE TENSION" ALSO CARRIED.

7. DAVAR (BARNEA) NOTED CONTRADICTORY SIGNALS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER ON POSSIBILITY OF RESUMPTION US INITIATIVE IN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS. ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED NOT TO TAKE ANY MEDIATION STEPS UNTIL AT LEAST ONE PARTY PRESENTS PROPOSAL THAT COULD BE BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND BELIEVES ISRAEL SHOULD MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL. LACK OF CONFIDENCE BY STATE DEPARTMENT IN ISRAELI LEADERSHIP IS ATTRIBUTED TO DISAPPOINTMENT OVER WAY IN WHICH ISRAEL HANDLED NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY IMPRESSION GIVEN BY ISRAEL THAT ITS INTIAL POSITION WAS NEGOTIABLE, UNCLASSIFIED

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WHILE IN END NOT MAKING ANY SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS.

8. DAVAR'S MILITARY CORRESPONDENT, YONAH SHIMSHI, REPORTED ISRAELI UNDERSTANDING THAT EGYPT REJECTED ISRAELI PROPOSAL TO REDUCE SIZE OF EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES FROM 650,000 TO 400,000-450,000 SOLDIERS IN RETURN FOR ISRAELI REDUCTION OF ITS REQUIRED PERIOD OF MILITARY SERVICE FROM THREE TO TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS. THIS PROPOSAL AS MADE DURING TALKS WITH

SECRETARY KISSINGER.

9. HAVAR (BARNEA) ALSO CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY ON AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY'S CRITICISM OF SECRETARY KISSINGER MADE AT SPECIAL MEETING OF HEADS OF US TRADE UNIONS IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL.

10. WHILE PREFERRING BILATERAL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL TO GOING TO GENEVA, HAARETZ EDITORIAL WANTED THAT UNLESS CAIRO IS PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS, IT IS BETTER TO AVOID ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT AND INSTEAD PREPARE FOR GENEVA, "WHATEVER TROUBLE MIGHT BE EXPECTED THERE."

11. DAVAR URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO COME UP WITH SOME "FLEXIBLE, MODERATE PROPOSALS" TO TEST IMAGE OF MODERATION AND GENEROSITY THAT SADAT HAS SUCCESSFULLY CREATED. WHILE DAVAR URGED MORE ENERGETIC INFORMATION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, "THE MAN THING IS AND REMAINS THE POLICY ITSELF."

12. MAARIV SUPPORTED RESUMPTION OF KISSINGER MEDIATION, BUT URGED ON CONDITION: "THE VISIT MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE TURNED INTO A CIRCUS, WITH ACCOMPANYING JOURNALISTS AND IN-FLIGHT BRIEFINGS."

13. YEDIOT EDITORIAL CHARGED KISSINGER WITH "LEADING ISRAEL INTO A CERTAIN WAR" BY UPSETTING ARMS BALANCE. YEDIOT ALSO ASSERTED THAT PM RABIN HAS PROVED A PLEASANT SURPRISE. "IF PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT HIM HAD STARTED OFF BY BEING RESERVED, IT HAS GROWN MUCH WARMER NOW. THE MAN-IN-THE-STREET HAS EGUN TO FEEL THAT ISRAEL HAS A REAL PRIME MINISTER."

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